



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

AFGHANISTAN – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #01, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

October 31, 2002

Note: This Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Situation Reports released in FY 2001 and FY 2002. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. A devastating four-year regional drought compounded the crisis, drying up wells, parching agricultural land, killing off livestock, collapsing rural economies, and eventually exhausting the coping mechanisms of many ordinary Afghans, forcing them to leave their homes in search of food and water. International relief agencies, with support from the United States (U.S.), have long been active in providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, even during the restrictive years of the Taliban. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) began its emergency coordination work in response to the regional drought in June 2001, and a USAID/OFDA Program Office in Kabul continues to assess the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Afghans, and to monitor the relief programs of its implementing partners.

Afghanistan: Numbers at a Glance

Total population (CIA Factbook)..... 26,813,057

Old Caseload Refugees as of August 2001 (UNHCR)
Pakistan and Iran 3,500,000

Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002 (UNHCR)
Pakistan (vol. assisted since March 1)..... 1,516,973
Iran (voluntary assisted since April 9) 229,753
Central Asian states 10,000

Internally Displaced (UNDP/OCHA)

Estimate as of August 1, 2002 (UNHCR)

north and northeast 384,500

south and west 474,000

Internally Displaced Returns Since Jan. 1, 2002 (IOM)

Total as of August 31, 2002 (vol. assisted)... 230,000

Total since December 2001 (spontaneous) ... 400,000

FY 2001 - 2003 U.S. Government Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan* **\$714,644,624**

CURRENT SITUATION

Overview. *New banknotes were issued. Several outbreaks of factional fighting in the north ended with a cease-fire. Warlord Padshah Kahn launched an attack to reassert control in Khost. The number of vulnerable Afghans at risk from harsh winter conditions may be two million, while the number facing a food deficit is estimated to be six million. Frost and low temperatures have arrived in some areas. The pace of refugee returns has slowed, while the number of families returning to Pakistan has increased slightly. An outbreak of whooping cough is suspected in 61 deaths in Badakhshan Province.*

Political/Military. *On October 7, the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan (ITGA) issued new banknotes to replace the old currency. The new notes have been re-denominated, with one thousand old afghanis exchangeable for one new afghani. Afghans will have two months to exchange all of their old notes.*

Security. *Several episodes of factional fighting were reported in the north between forces loyal to Abdul*

Rashid Dostum's Junbish party and Ustad Mohammed Atta's Jamiat party. On October 3, clashes in Samangan Province left five people injured and caused the temporary displacement of up to 180 families. On October 8, fighting in Balkh Province killed five combatants and injured two civilians. In both cases, the Security Commission, which includes officials from both sides and a representative of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), intervened to negotiate a cease-fire. The Security Commission had similarly ended fighting on October 1 in Samangan Province, and tensions between the two sides remain high in Sar-e-Pul Province. On October 3, fighting between Wahadat party factions, killing at least two, was reported in Balkh Province.

In the southeastern province of Khost, gunmen opened fire on a convoy of vehicles carrying Governor Hakim Taniwal, killing two bodyguards and injuring four others. The incident occurred on October 7, the same day rebel warlord Padshah Khan launched an attack against the forces of the governor in an effort to assert control in the province. Last month Padshah Kahn was forced out of Khost city, and his bases were overrun.

According to press reports, fighting broke out on October 3 in the western province of Farah involving forces loyal to Governor of Herat Ismail Kahn and rival warlord Amanullah Kahn. The fighting left six dead and more than 20 injured. In the east, a brief clash between rival commanders in Jalalabad reportedly killed one man and injured two. In the central Bamiyan Province, factional tensions remain high in the district of Kahmard. A conflict in Darwaz, Badakhshan Province is reportedly ongoing. Criminal activity is on the rise in Kandahar, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. In Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, and Wardak provinces, UNAMA reported that several girls' schools were intentionally burned down. In Kabul, the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service temporarily suspended flights from the city airport on October 13 following a security threat. Flights returned to normal on October 16. U.N. missions to Kunar and Nuristan provinces remain suspended due to ongoing military activity.

Winter Preparation. The ITGA, in cooperation with UNAMA, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) and other U.N. agencies, NGOs, and provincial authorities, are working to implement a common humanitarian assistance strategy for the coming winter. The strategy will address: urban winter issues affecting recently returned refugees; rural winter issues, including improving access and pre-positioning of food and non-food supplies in areas that will become cut-off by heavy snows; the potential for refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) who returned to their areas of origin but found insufficient assistance to re-displace; the needs of those still displaced by drought or violence; and the special needs of Kuchi nomads.

UNJLC reported that the onset of frost and low temperatures in some areas of the western highlands is already complicating planned road rehabilitation work intended to improve winter access.

UNAMA estimates the total winter "at risk" population to be roughly two million people, with a worst case planning figure of 2.4 million people. This figure includes the returnees and IDPs identified by UNHCR as lacking means or having settled, displaced, or re-displaced in areas of continued high vulnerability, as well as those stationary Afghans living in areas which will be inaccessible due to snow, and those destitute Afghans needing assistance in urban areas. UNHCR estimates that 290,700 refugee returnees and 265,720 IDPs may experience some hardship during the coming winter, while more than 100,000 of the most vulnerable urban Afghans will need shelter repair and heating assistance.

According to its initial survey of needs and a review of available stocks, UNAMA has identified a shortfall of: 24,254 MT of wheat, 2,820 winter tents, 10,781 pieces of plastic sheeting, 104,506 blankets, 48,396 stoves, and 17,774MT of coal.

Food Aid and Agriculture. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is facing breaks in its cereal pipeline. WFP anticipates that cereals could be unavailable after December without further donations. Food stocks between now and the end of the year are critical for winter preparation.

Preliminary results of the WFP 2002-2003 Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping (VAM) assessment have been released, and are consistent with those of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment completed this summer. According to the data, increased precipitation in the north and west has resulted in higher production and an improvement in overall food security in those areas. However, in the Central Highlands and in the provinces of Ghor, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab and Farah, the population continues to experience high levels of food insecurity. Moreover, in the southern and eastern provinces, as well as in Uruzgan, Bamiyan and Wardak provinces, the severe negative impact of drought on food security and livelihoods continues unabated. The assessment has also identified pockets of acute food insecurity in otherwise better off areas, most notably in the northeastern provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar.

According to WFP, four million Afghans in rural communities are estimated to face a food deficit during the next 12 months. This figure does not include vulnerable Afghans living in urban areas, returnees, or IDPs. Data from this year's Crop and Food Supply Assessment indicate that more than six million of the most vulnerable Afghans countrywide will continue to require targeted food assistance. In addition to the effects of drought, other persistent factors such as rural indebtedness, loss of productive assets, and lack of purchasing power contribute to high food insecurity.

UNAMA reports that in parts of the north, there is concern over the availability and/or accessibility of water. The impacts of drought are still felt in some southern mountainous districts, limiting availability, while in other districts maneuvering factions have restricted accessibility.

IDPs and Refugees. More than 1.75 million Afghan refugees have been assisted in returning home through the joint U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ITGA voluntary repatriation program that began on March 1. More than 1.5 million Afghans have voluntarily returned from Pakistan, while nearly 230,000 Afghans have returned home from Iran. Returns in the last month are sharply down (106,976 Afghans returned in September, down from a peak of 412,742 in May) due to the coming winter, a reduction in return assistance, and insecurity in some parts of the country. UNHCR anticipates a continued decline in returns until spring, when the pace should again increase.

Returns from Iran at the southern Milak-Zaranj border crossing, suspended since September 1 due to poor security, have now resumed. Iran is now returning more refugees per week than Pakistan (6,000 returned the second week in October from Iran, versus 4,000 from Pakistan).

UNHCR has reported an increase in the number of Afghan families crossing back into Pakistan. In late August, UNHCR's monitoring teams recorded 100 families entering Pakistan at the Turkham border point, while during the first week of October, the number of families making the crossing was 215. Although this seasonal migration is not a new phenomenon, and many of the families indicate that they intend to return to Afghanistan in the spring, it is a reflection of the difficult reality facing some Afghans in drought-affected or war-torn communities lacking adequate reintegration assistance.

Since January, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have helped more than 230,000 IDPs return to their homes. IOM estimates that despite the success of its return program, there will still remain at least 300,000 IDPs in the north, central, and western regions that cannot return home due to continued vulnerability or ethnic persecution, with another 400,000 long-term IDPs scattered across the south. UNAMA will be conducting a survey in the coming month of IDP numbers and needs in the south.

UNAMA reports that new displacements to Kabul for economic reasons continue from the drought-affected districts of Panjab, Waras, and Saighan in Bamiyan Province. UNAMA also reports migration in the south due to high levels of poverty in some drought-affected districts.

Health. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that at least 61 children have died over a four-week period from a suspected outbreak of whooping cough in Darwaz district, Badakhshan province. WHO doctors were airlifted to the remote location by Coalition forces.

As a part of its winterization strategy, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is pre-positioning Vitamin C in the mountainous province of Ghor. Last winter, UNICEF had to administer several hundred thousand doses of Vitamin C following an outbreak of scurvy in several remote villages in Ghor. Scurvy is brought on by hunger and a lack of Vitamin C.

UNICEF and WHO are conducting assessments of the high levels of iodine deficiency in the diet of the population. The high prevalence of goiters, still births, and infant mortality are in part the result of iodine deficiency. Iodized salt is rare in the markets in rural areas, and is even scarce in Kabul.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background. On October 4, 2001, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan has been provided by USAID/OFDA, Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Humanitarian Demining Program (State/HDP), the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

Personnel. On June 7, 2002 the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in Kabul was deactivated to become a USAID/OFDA Program Office. The USAID/DART had been in the region since June 2001. USAID/OFDA staff in Kabul will continue to coordinate with the humanitarian relief community, assess the humanitarian situation, and monitor USAID/OFDA programs.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002				
USAID/OFDA				
	Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Health and Nutrition	Central	\$1,705,030
	ACTED	Emergency relief, Salang	Northeast	\$9,383,454
	Airserv	Air Transport Services	Countrywide	\$1,574,756
	CARE	Food, livelihoods, water, and health	Central, South	\$4,892,244
	Concern Worldwide	Shelter, seeds and tools, agriculture, income generation activities	Northeast	\$2,940,661
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Non-food items	Central Highlands	\$988,087
	Church World Service(CWS)	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
	Focus/Aga Khan Foundation	Seeds, water, food	Bamiyan, Baghlan, Balkh	\$1,436,134
	GOAL	Emergency relief, locust eradication, winterization, agriculture	Samangan and Jowzjan	\$8,600,000
	International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)	Seed multiplication	Countrywide	\$2,525,000
	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Food, non-food items	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
	International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health care, supplemental feeding, water, agriculture	West, Central	\$7,996,405
	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Food, non-food items, charcoal, IDP transport, care, and support	West, North	\$4,632,073
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, food, water, roads	North, Balkh, Ghor	\$8,242,779
	International Resource Groups (IRG)	Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
	Mercy Corps	Food, non-food items, water, sanitation, agriculture, livestock	South, Northeast	\$6,751,653
	Save the Children (SC/US)	Nutrition, food, health, spot reconstruction	South, West, North	\$5,651,312
	Shelter for Life (SFL)	Shelter and roads	West, Northeast	\$4,649,008
	Solidarites	Emergency rehabilitation	North, Central	\$1,739,115
	Tufts University	Assessment Mission	South, West	\$201,868
	UNCHS/Habitat	Cash for work, solid waste removal	Urban	\$382,850
	UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)	Agriculture, seeds, locust and sunn pest eradication	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
	UNICEF	Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,150,000
	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)	Coordination	Countrywide	\$2,685,150
	World Food Program (WFP)	Logistics, air services, local purchase food (15,000 MT)	Countrywide	\$18,200,000
	Field Support	Operational support for USAID/OFDA team		\$1,900,953
	Airlifts and OFDA relief commodities	Procurement and/or transport of relief supplies		\$4,026,634
	Central Asia Task Force Allowance	Transfer to USAID/Central Asia Task Force to support airlift of textbooks		\$742,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA				\$113,361,888

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2001-2002	FY 2001	FY 2002
USAID/OFDA	\$12,485,791	\$113,361,888
USAID/FFP	\$31,200,000	\$159,472,700
USAID/OTI	-----	\$24,348,951
USAID/DG	\$310,000	-----
STATE/HDP	\$2,800,000	\$7,000,000
STATE/PRM	\$31,088,659	\$136,544,175
STATE/INL	\$1,500,000	-----
USDA	\$104,300,000	\$38,651,516
DOD	-----	\$50,897,769
CDC	\$569,525	-----
Total USG Assistance by Fiscal Year	\$184,253,975	\$530,276,999

FY 2001/ 2002 / 2003 SUMMARY	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....	\$184,367,625
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002	\$530,276,999
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2003	\$0
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001/2003	\$714,644,624

*Note: A detailed breakdowns of FY01 assistance is available in previous Central Asia Situation Reports.



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USAID/OFDA situation reports and fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at
http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html